

HCDOP Communications – March 2005

Next HCDOP meeting

- *When/where*
 - **April 19, 9:30 am** at the Thelar Wetlands Center in Belfair.
- *Proposed agenda items for the April 19 meeting*
 - EPA watershed initiative proposals (D. Fagergren, PSAT)
 - (Possibly, if agenda allows) 15 minute version of USGS presentation at the PS-GB research conference (D. Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Quick summary and status report on HC (state) legislative bills (D. Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Discuss approach to deal with Bob Benze editorial and Norm Hemley letter (10 min) (D. Hannafious/J. Newton). *Note: the editorial is listed under media coverage at the end of this document.*
 - Need to consider the CAE strategy for providing more visible outreach message re IAM study (10 min) (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Need agreement on how to send this message to legislative folks...IAM responsibility to inform (i.e. Jay Inslee's comment/challenge to the science community) (10 min) (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Revised HCDOP website managed by UW (5 min) (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)

HCDOP CG Action Items (from the March 16 meeting)

- Anne will convene a workgroup to discuss the feasibility of submitting a proposal to EPA for the targeted watershed grant program. (The workgroup is scheduled for April 6, 9am to 11am at the Action Team's office. Anne Criss, Keith Dublanica, Dick Wallace, and Dave Christensen will participate). (Done.).
- Dan Hannafious will send IAM additional study needs list to Anne. Anne will circulate the list (Done).

Scientific Studies

- *Project update*
 - USGS is moving forward with the ground-water study and some initial reconnaissance work will begin in April. A more detailed plan for the fish disease work was sent to interested parties and no additional comments (above those received at the March 2 meeting), so we are proceeding with that work also (G. Turney, USGS)
 - A few PSAT staff met with Jeff Richey (UW PRISM) on Hood Canal and broader Puget Sound science and coordination between the PSAT and the UW (D. Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Continued successful data collection by ORCA, Cit Mon, and Freshwater network (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - MMP profiler slated for deployment early May (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Had HCDOP-IAM meetings to review/coordinate USGS contributions re Groundwater sampling plan (Task 3) and Fish disease/hypoxia study (Task 4) (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)

- Freshwater group is progressing towards installing staff gauges for stream flow monitoring. (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
- Task 3: Mindy Roberts drafted an outline of the Quality Assurance Project Plan, which will document the study objectives and the specific monitoring and modeling activities conducted by the project participants during the first year of the study. (M. Roberts, Ecology).
- Union River monitoring of fecal coliform is proceeding on a quarterly schedule along with keeping track of flows in order to calculate bacteria loads to the Canal. Bacteria concentrations in the Union River at Belfair have actually dropped since 2003 from an average of 80 to 50 cfu/ 100mL. (D. Garland, Ecology).
- *New information generated by projects*
 - USGS continues to analyze data to refine estimates of nitrogen inputs into the canal. Most recently, nitrate inputs into the end of the canal from marine sources during August and September 2004 were estimated to be about 165 +/- 120 metric tons, whereas all other sources totaled about 6 metric tons. These estimates were based on data collected from the ADCPs deployed and periodic samplings made during that same period. These data were presented at the recent Puget Sound-Georgia Basin meeting. Though the implications of these data are significant, Tony Paulson received no questions or comments regarding them. (G. Turney)
 - Information available through UW's HCDOP website Information available through UW's HCDOP website (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
- *Study data*
 - DO levels appear to be increasing over last year in HC; notably Lynch Cove is above 3 mg/L and inventory is midway between historical data and last year. (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Contact Dave Garland for Ecology NWRO Union River monitoring data. (D. Garland, Ecology).

Corrective Actions

- *Project update*
 - Received and am reviewing proposed final reports from the two chum salmon carcass projects from the Skokomish Tribe and American Canadian Fisheries. (D. Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Met with Rich Geiger, Mark Clark and other Mason CD staff on the initial results of their anaerobic digester for the Skokomish Valley (economics and design.) This project was viewed favorably by Governor Gregoire and is proposed to receive funding in her budget. (D. Fagergren, PSAT)
 - The WRIA 15 Draft Watershed Plan contains four recommendations related to water quality issues in Hood Canal:
 - Consider requiring effective nitrate removal systems for new and replacement on-site systems in areas of Hood Canal.
 - Coordinate with other water resource planning groups in Hood Canal.

- Expand efforts to determine sources of nitrogen and bacteria. Until we better understand the sources of contamination, take caution in requiring landowners to take expensive and extraordinary measures to control nitrogen and bacteria.
- Take proactive steps related to fertilizer use.

There are also some general water quality recommendations related to on-site sewage systems and hazardous material management that have applicability to Hood Canal water quality issues. The WRIA 15 planning unit hopes to approve the plan in May or early June. (J. Klug, Ecology).

- *New information generated by projects*

Public Outreach

- *Public education and outreach efforts updates*
 - The Neighbors of the Hood Canal web site is now up and ready for content. Groups can post information about their programs and events on the site. Karen Lippy plans to hold a training to show people how to post information. (M. Knackstedt, PSAT).
 - Attended an evening public forum on Belfair's sewage project(s) for the UGA and the expanded 'north shore' area, as well as the stormwater and highway 3 bypass projects. The event was conducted by two of the county's contractors. (D. Fagergren, PSAT).
 - Dan Hannafious gave a presentation regarding Hood Canal to the Poulsbo Kayak Club on 8 March. (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Jan Newton gave a talk regarding Hood Canal at the faculty meeting of the UW School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences on 8 March. (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Jan Newton spoke at the HCCC Board Meeting on 11 March in Silverdale regarding the HCDOP-IAM study. (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Greg Bargmann, Dave Christensen, Dan Hannafious, and Jan Newton gave presentations on Hood Canal as part the WSU Water Watcher's event at Fort Worden on 12 March. (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Two Hood Canal sessions, one on science and one on corrective actions, were held at the Puget Sound-Georgia Basin Research Conference on 30 March. (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Dan Hannafious provided HCDOP messages to an Olympic College Natural Resource class on 7 April at Theler Wetlands Center. (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Jan Newton gave a Lunch Seminar to Chemical Oceanography group at UW on 8 April regarding Hood Canal. (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
- *Comments/questions from public*
 - Jan Newton gave input to Ecology on response to Hemley letter to Governor. (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)

- *Response to public sentiments/concerns/issues*
 - Dan Hannafious and Jan Newton are strategizing a response to the Benze editorial in Bremerton Sun with reporter Chris Dunagan (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
- *Public outreach needs*
 - Need for CAE strategy to increase public understanding of how IAM study fits with preliminary corrective actions. (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
- *Upcoming meeting notices/speaking engagements*
 - Jan Newton will give a briefing on the HCDOP-IAM study to the UW Applied Physics Lab Advisory Board on 11 April (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Dan Hannafious will speak on Hood Canal hypoxia to the Crysta Retirement Home in Silverdale on 19 April (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Jan Newton will provide content on Hood Canal to Dr. Ginger Armbrust's public lecture on 21 April as part of the UW Science Forum (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Jan Newton will be the dinner speaker for the gathering at Alderbrook Resort on 28 May, including Norm Dicks and Bill Gates Sr. (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Renee Rose will give a talk regarding the Citizen's Monitoring Program to the Audubon Society in Poulsbo in April. (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - The next Hood Canal Watershed Education Network (HCWEN) Outreach and Coordination Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 20th at the Kitsap SSWM Complex in Bremerton (across from the airport) from 930am-1200. Contact Emily Piper for details 360.427.9670 ex. 396 elpiper@wsu.edu. (A. Criss, PSAT).

Funding

- *Funding now available*
 - Set up and facilitated an HCDOP work group to discuss the feasibility and coordinate efforts to submit an EPA Targeted Watershed Proposal for work on Hood Canal. Anne Criss (PSAT), Keith Dublanica (Skokomish Tribes), Dave Christensen (HCCC), Gale Blomstrom (ECY) and Phil Wiatrack (ECY) attended. A second meeting is scheduled for April 13. (A. Criss, PSAT).
 - Attended the WRIA 16 planning meeting to listen to the discussion of possible project ideas for the EPA Targeted Watershed Grant. The group decided that none of the members would pursue a grant application this year and would work on developing project ideas for the next round of funding. (A. Criss, PSAT).
- *Funding needs*
 - Dan Hannafious provided a list of additional IAM funding needs. Anne circulated the list to coordinating group members.
- *Upcoming funding opportunities*
 - The Mission Creeks Water Quality Restoration CCWF Project rated fairly high (700 points) on the state's ranked list and will probably get funded. This project could supplement Union River monitoring in helping total fecal coliform and nitrogen loads to Lynch Cove. (D. Garland, Ecology).

Legislative or Congressional action

- *Legislative contacts/meetings*
 - Assisted Brad and others in the Governor's policy and communications offices with logistics for the governor's briefing and tour of Hood Canal (at Belfair, Madrona Beach and Alderbrook) (D. Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Attended most of the Hood Canal House Select committee meetings and presented on the Governor's budget for the coming biennium. Met with Chair Eickmeyer on issues and legislative bills related to HC. (D. Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Attended (with Brad Ack) the Governor's press announcement on Hood Canal related to her budget (and assisted Brad in contacting local and tribal government officials, legislators and state officials to attend the event.) (D. Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Met with the Skokomish Tribal Fisheries and Natural Resources departments on various pieces of legislation, and the working relationship between the HCCC and the Action Team (related to HB 2097) (D. Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Jan Newton and Mark Warner (UW) provided Governor's office with graphic on DO historical change comparing oxygen inventory from 1954 with 2004. (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Need discussion on how to send HCDOP-IAM science message to legislative folks...IAM responsibility to inform (i.e. response to Jay Inslee's comment/challenge to the science community) (D. Hannafious/J. Newton)
 - Congressman Jay Inslee attended the HCCC Annual awards luncheon at Port Gamble S'Klallam longhouse on April 1, 2005 and had a very good set of messages on the canal including "Everyone's nitrogen counts." The Congressman also recounted that the canal environment has special meaning to his family in that his father, a teacher at Sealth High School in Seattle, used to go to the teachers' retreat center at Seabeck. The Congressman said he'd like to get the canal back to a condition similar to what it was in 1950s. (D. Garland, Ecology).
- *Regulations or policy issues*
 - Attended the HCCC meeting in Silverdale and talked about legislation and coordination between the PSAT and the HCCC (members and staff) (D. Fagergren, PSAT)

Media

- *Media contacts or requests*
 - HCDOP-IAM Co-managers speaking with Chris Dunagan (Bremerton Sun) re story on kick-off of the IAM study. (Newton/Hannafious).
- *Media coverage* (A. Criss, PSAT)

Gregoire vows to save Sound

The News Tribune

March 30, 2005

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/story/4731767p-4365805c.html>

Plan for canal merits support

The Olympian Editorial

March 28, 2005

<http://www.theolympian.com/home/news/20050328/opinion/114375.shtml>

Gregoire budget gives Hood Canal a spotlight

The News Tribune

March 25, 2005

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/editorials/story/4717439p-4355614c.html>

Gregoire pledges \$5 million for canal

The News Tribune

March 19, 2005

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/story/4702858p-4345163c.html>

\$5 million sought for cleanup

The Olympian

March 19, 2005

<http://www.theolympian.com/home/news/20050319/newsletter/109176.shtml>

Hood Canal deserves attention

The Olympian Editorial

March 18, 2005

<http://www.theolympian.com/home/news/20050318/opinion/108451.shtml>

Gregoire: Hood Canal 'jewel' in grave danger

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

March 18, 2005

http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/aplocal_story.asp?category=6420&slug=WA+Hood+Canal

Clearer waters ahead?

The News Tribune

March 14, 2005

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/front/topphoto/story/4680750p-4333235c.html>

Hood Canal: It's Time To Act, Not To Study

Bremerton Sun

March 14, 2005

http://www1.kitsapsun.com/bsun/op_letters/article/0,2403,bsun_19096_3614918,00.html

House Passes Hood Canal Legislation

Bremerton Sun

March 12, 2005

http://www1.kitsapsun.com/bsun/lo_politics/article/0,2403,bsun_19086_3615960,00.html

Hood Canal: Support Legislation To Protect It

Bremerton Sun

March 5, 2005

http://www1.kitsapsun.com/bsun/op_letters/article/0,2403,bsun_19096_3595923,00.html

Gregoire Tackles Hood Canal Woes

Bremerton Sun

March 5, 2005

http://www1.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,bsun_19088_3599139,00.html

In the Northwest: Hood Canal is worth saving -- and it won't be easy

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

March 4, 2005

http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/connelly/214491_joel04.html

Hood Canal: Untouched Inlet Also Has Oxygen Problems

Bremerton Sun

March 4, 2005

http://www1.kitsapsun.com/bsun/op_letters/article/0,2403,bsun_19096_3592809,00.html

Hood Canal: Septic Bills Would Be Invasive, Costly

Bremerton Sun

March 3, 2005

http://www1.kitsapsun.com/bsun/op_letters/article/0,2403,bsun_19096_3589116,00.html

Hood Canal Chinook Get Attention

Bremerton Sun

March 1, 2005

http://www1.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,bsun_19088_3587871,00.html

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ENVEST could aid study of Hood Canal problems

By Bob Benze, Guest Columnist

March 26, 2005

An article on the front page of The Sun last August showed commercial shellfish harvesting in Dyes Inlet for the first time in 40 years. This milestone event was supported by scientific studies conducted by the Navy in partnership with the City of Bremerton, Kitsap County, the Department of Health, and the Suquamish Tribe. Using state-of-the-science environmental computer models developed by the Navy under the ENVVEST (ENVironmental InVESTment) program, the studies showed that the typical sewage spills that would occur after Bremerton's extensive sewer and storm water system upgrades would not cause fecal coliform bacteria limits to be exceeded at the shellfish beds.

The ENVVEST program was born out of adversity. Puget Sound Naval Shipyard experienced environmental compliance problems in the early 1990's. Recognizing that the ability to conduct critical national defense work was potentially jeopardized, the shipyard made a commitment to become a leader in environmental protection. As the yard moved toward this goal, it brought some of the Navy's premier marine environmental scientists on board to help design programs to protect the adjacent marine waters. These initial efforts evolved into a full scale state-of-the-science study of Dyes and Sinclair Inlets. Taking advantage of federal Reinventing Government initiatives, the yard submitted their innovative scientific approach to Clean Water Act compliance under EPA's Project XL/ENVVEST - which allows some regulatory relief when the environmental results exceed what would be achieved under existing rules. This pilot program brought together the combined cooperative efforts of Navy scientists and environmental managers, the EPA, the Department of Ecology, tribal governments, city and county agencies, and local community members.

The results have been spectacular. The current ENVVEST pilot program is arguably the most advanced approach today for tracing pollutants from their origin to their final fate and effect in the marine environment. Stormwater runoff from the Kitsap County watersheds is simulated in a computer using the universally recognized HSPF model, with inputs from a robust GIS (geographic information system) database that contains data on topography, land use and land cover. The unique feature of this system is that the runoff modeling is electronically linked to the hydrodynamic and water quality model (named CH3D) of Sinclair and Dyes Inlets, and the waters surrounding Bainbridge Island. Not only does this modeling allow the shipyard to work with

regulators to responsibly manage its discharges, it is now available as a tool to cooperating agencies, including the Department of Ecology and county health departments and land-use planners.

The ENVVEST program is ongoing. Under the National Oceanographic Partnership Program, the Navy is working with the University of Washington, King County, state Department of Ecology and other partners to further link the CH3D model with the larger-scale Princeton Ocean Model of Puget Sound. Phase II of the ENVVEST Pilot Program will propose ways to make lasting improvements to the environmental quality of Sinclair and Dyes Inlets by focusing resources on the pollutants and problems causing the most risk to ecological resources. The payoff is that the shipyard will know with certainty which chemicals in their discharges can potentially impact the marine environment, what the scientifically defensible protective limits are, and the allowable total maximum daily loading (TMDL) of these chemicals to the inlets. A side benefit is that the ENVVEST program has dramatically improved the shipyard's relationship with the regulatory community and with other stakeholders, including cities, counties and tribes.

How does this pertain to Hood Canal? Today, no one fully knows the cause of the canal's low-oxygen "dead zone" problem. Scientists need to have a better understanding of canal flushing, natural biological changes, and human induced changes. The University of Washington has embarked on a three-year Low Dissolved Oxygen Program to get the answers.

A part of this program is the development of new landscape/land cover, stormwater runoff and hydrodynamic models. But there is no need to reinvent the wheel. The ENVVEST modeling system is already developed and was designed to be adapted to other water bodies such as the Hood Canal. It is available for incorporation into the U.W. study of the dissolved oxygen problem. The transition efforts to adapt the models to track Canal nutrients, while substantial, would be significantly less than the model development program currently planned by the U.W. Further, as the owner and operator of the Bangor Naval Submarine Base on Hood Canal, it makes sense for the Navy to consider participating in the U.W. study of the Canal.

There are, however, political and financial obstacles to overcome to make this happen. Congressman Norm Dicks has already played a key role in bringing the scientific community together to address the Hood Canal problem and was instrumental in obtaining initial funding for the U.W. study. He and our state elected officials should now seriously consider a cooperative effort to bring the university and Navy efforts together to achieve the best possible scientific study of Hood Canal at the least cost to the taxpaying public.

Silverdale resident Bob Benze is an environmental engineer who was involved in creation of the ENVVEST program.

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Gregoire seeks funds to clean up Hood Canal

The Associated Press
March 19, 2005

OLYMPIA - Taking up where her predecessor left off, Gov. Christine Gregoire yesterday designated cleanup of polluted **Hood Canal** as her first big environmental project.

Gregoire, who once served as state ecology director, announced a nine-point plan to halt human and animal wastes from getting into the scenic **canal** that is perilously close to becoming a dead zone.

Former Gov. Gary Locke, U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, the Puget Sound Action Team, tribes, local and federal agencies, the environmental community and others have worked on cleanup of the 60-mile inland waterway for a number of years.

Gregoire made it clear that it's a high priority for her new administration, too. She said it's past time for talking and studying, and time for "on-the-ground action."

She asked lawmakers to approve \$5 million to help finance sewer and stormwater projects at Belfair and Hoodport in Mason County, pay for surveying failing septic systems, provide low-interest loans for property owners to fix failing systems and provide grants for managing animal-waste and salmon-carcass disposal problems.

Gregoire released \$40,000 from her emergency fund so Mason County can begin septic surveys next month. Mason, Kitsap and Jefferson counties would share \$470,000 for the surveying. Dissolved oxygen in portions of the **canal** has reached record-low levels, causing fish kills. One portion already is being described as a dead zone.

"It is a crisis, in my opinion," the governor told a news conference. "It is a crown jewel, but it is in serious danger. We should all be very embarrassed."

Gregoire said natural factors cause part of the problem, but that human activities are much to blame, including septic systems, runoff, livestock manure and salmon carcasses.

Dicks endorsed Gregoire's choice of the **canal** as an early priority.

"The governor's decisive actions demonstrate a clear commitment to solving the problems that threaten the health and vitality of **Hood Canal**," Dicks said in a statement released by the Governor's Office. "The state's plan represents a comprehensive approach that continues the important research ... as well as the preliminary remedial efforts that are taking place through the joint efforts of federal, state and local government agencies, as well as the Skokomish Tribe."

Dicks staff member Tom Luce said the congressman will continue championing federal support for research and remediation. State Rep. Bill Eickmeyer, D-Belfair, chairman of the House Select Committee on **Hood Canal**, said Gregoire's plan dovetails nicely with six bills moving through the Legislature.

Also praising Gregoire was Naki Stevens of People for Puget Sound, a group that works to restore area waters and shoreline.

"We're really pleased she has stepped up to this and not just talked some more about it," she said.

"It really complements everything else that is under way."

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